



Paresha D'var Torah

Pareshat Acharei Mot / Kedoshim
Vayikra 12:1 – 15:33
Honorable Mentshen

By Rabbi Mordechai Kamenetzky

This week the Torah tells us about loving every Jew. It adds a special verse exhorting us to be especially sensitive to a special type of Jew - the convert. "When a proselyte dwells among you in your land, do not taunt him. The proselyte who dwells with you shall be like a native among you, and you shall love him like yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt — I am Hashem, your G-d" (Leviticus 19:33-34)

A person who converts has the status of a Jew. He is a full-fledged member of the community and every social, moral and ethical tenet applies to him. Though he may be exempt from particular laws concerning "kahal" (which would have implications in marital law), he is otherwise as equal as any Jew. And that's why this verse troubles me. After all, if the convert is a Jew, why do we need a special command telling us not to inflict any discomfort upon him? Hadn't the Torah told us in verse 18, "Love your neighbor as yourself?" Why implore born-Jews to be nice to the newcomers through a series of commands that seem to use a moral approach: "You were once a stranger, so you know how it feels?" A convert is a Jew. And a Jew is a Jew is a Jew! All rules apply!

When my grandfather Rabbi Yaakov Kamenetzky, of blessed memory, was dean of Mesivta Torah Voda'ath back in the 1950s, he developed a professional relationship with a psychotherapist who worked with some of the students. The doctor would often call Rabbi Kamenetzky to discuss his treatment of some of the students under his care. They also would have discussions on psychology and education. The doctor was a student of the famed psychotherapist, Dr. Sigmund Freud, and despite Freud's attitude toward religion, this particular doctor was always respectful and never attributed any of the students' problems to observance or religious commitment.

Years later, when Rav Yaakov was informed that the doctor had passed away, he felt it incumbent to attend his funeral. He assumed it would not be the type of service he was used to, and even understood that he, a frocked and bearded sage, would appear out of place among a medical community of his distinguished colleagues, assimilated German and Austrian psychotherapists and mental health professionals. However, Rav Yaakov's gratitude overruled his hesitation.

When entering the Riverside Chapel, Rav Yaakov was shocked to see that a distinguished Rav, a friend of his, was performing the funeral and that scores of Torah observant Jews were participating. After the service which was done in total compliance with halacha, Rav Yaakov approached his friend who had officiated.

Z'manei Tefillah

Friday, May 9, 2025 Omer 26	
Candlelighting (not before 7:00)	8:12 p.m.
Mincha Plag	6:45 p.m.
Saturday, May 10, 2025 Acharei Mot / Kedoshim Omer 27	
Shacharit	9:00 a.m.
Latest Shema	9:36 a.m.
Mincha	8:10 p.m.
Shkiya	8:31 p.m.
Motzaei Shabbat	9:17 p.m.
Sunday- Thursday, May 11-16, 2025	
Earliest Tallit & Tefillin	4:58-4:52 a.m.
Shacharit, Sunday	8:00 a.m.
Shacharit, Monday, Thursday	6:45 a.m.
Shacharit, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	7:00 a.m.
Mincha/Maariv, Sunday-Thursday Plag	6:50 p.m.
Friday, May 16, 2025 Omer 33	
Candlelighting (not before 7:06)	8:18 p.m.
Mincha Plag	6:50 p.m.

D'var Torah Continued:

How do you know the doctor? What connection do you have with him? "What do you mean," answered the Rav. "Of course I knew him. The doctor davened in my shul three times a day!"

My grandfather had never discussed religion with the man; he just respected him for his professionalism and abilities.

The Torah tells us that even though there is a universal command to love every Jew as yourself, an additional concept applies specifically to a convert. We must be kind to him as part of the overall moral obligation of a nation that also endured the trauma of being strangers. In addition to loving Jews as their inherent birthright, it is also imperative to display love to them when our moral obligation demands it. The Torah is teaching us not only to act with affection as born Jews but as honorable mentshen.

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<https://torah.org/torah-portion/drasha-5762-kedoshim/>

SHAVUOT ICE CREAM / CHEESE DANISH SOCIAL

Tuesday, June 3, 2025 @ 6:45 PM

In the Sam Ferman Hall

Lecture with **Rabbi Yehuda Mann @ 7:40 PM**

Rosh Beit Midrash of Beit Midrash Zichron Dov

Lecture with **Rabbi Meir Rosenberg** after Mincha

Mara D'atra of B'nai Torah.

To sponsor this event please contact the Shul office ☎️📧

Lifecycle**Refuah Sheleimah:**

- Refuah Sheleimah to all the cholim and all those who were wounded or kidnapped and who are suffering at this time. Tefillot and Tehillim said on behalf of the cholim are much appreciated.

We Thank Our Sponsors:

The Kiddush this Shabbat is sponsored by:

- **George Grunwald**, to commemorate the yahrzeit of his mother, Rosa Grunwald, Rivka bat Aharon Tzvi, z"l.

Mishebeirach for Medinat Yisrael and Chayalim:

- Sponsored by **Andrea Stern and Isaac Singer**, in honour of their son Jonathan, who recently served as a reservist in the IDF and in honour of all the other reservists and Chayalim.
- **The Korman family.**

Israel News can be found at [Israel News](#).

Synagogue Notes**Shavuot Ice Cream / Cheese Cake Social – Volunteers Needed:**

B'nai Torah needs volunteers to help with the refreshments for this program on the second day of Shavuot, June 3. Anyone who can help with this, please contact the office.

Yizkor Donations.

Yizkor is recited on the last day of Shavuot. It is customary to give Tzedakah at this time, in memory of our departed loved ones.

This year for Yizkor, you have the opportunity to help support the future of our Shul. Proceeds from the Yizkor appeal will go toward the areas of greatest need. To make or fulfill a Yizkor pledge, please contact the Shul Office, to do so.

May the Neshamot benefit from your generosity and have an Aliyah.

Daf Yomi

May 10, 2025	Shabbat	12 Iyar 5785	Shevuot 9
May 11, 2025	Sunday	13 Iyar 5785	Shevuot 10
May 12, 2025	Monday	14 Iyar 5785	Shevuot 11
May 13, 2025	Tuesday	15 Iyar 5785	Shevuot 12
May 14, 2025	Wednesday	16 Iyar 5785	Shevuot 13
May 15, 2025	Thursday	17 Iyar 5785	Shevuot 14
May 16, 2025	Friday	18 Iyar 5785	Shevuot 15

Yahrzeits for the Week of May 11 – 17, 2025

<u>Deceased Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Member or Affiliate Name</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Hebrew Date</u>
Michael Jay Cherniak	son	Debbie Cherniak	Sunday	Iyar 13
Gladys Kahan	Mother	Shifra Weinberg	Sunday	Iyar 13
Shuli Lebovits	brother	Sylvia Slomovits	Sunday	Iyar 13
Shirley Abrahamovitz	mother	Alex Abrahamovitz	Monday	Iyar 14
Eugenia Dines	mother	Eva Oielgisser	Tuesday	Iyar 15
Frieda Gottesman	mother	Faigie Abrahamovitz	Tuesday	Iyar 15
Leah Zolty	mother	Netta Epstein	Tuesday	Iyar 15
Ilona Zichermann	mother	Agi Dunec	Wednesday	Iyar 16
Robert Klein	husband	Vera Klein	Thursday	Iyar 17
Jolan Goldberger	mother	Susan Barth	Friday	Iyar 18
Rosa Grunwald	mother	George Grunwald	Friday	Iyar 18
Lyn Nathan	sister	Netta Epstein	Friday	Iyar 18
Aimee Eskinazi	mother	Dahlia Eskinazi and Esther Smith	Shabbat	Iyar 19
Elisabeta Izsak	mother	Gabriela Rubinger	Shabbat	Iyar 19

Please consider making a donation to B'nai Torah in memory of your loved one.

Kaylim Mikvah Open by appointment only, for members only. Kaylim Mikvah is not available Erev Shabbat or Yom Tov. **Sisterhood Donations**, Elaine Tanenzapf, or call 416.665.2182; **Tree of Life, Dedications, Memorial Plaques**, Contact the office. **Visit us at our Donations page at www.bnaitorah.ca**